

# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia**



## **Press Review**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020**

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **President Tebboune Orders "immediate" investigation into recent incidents**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, ordered on Sunday the Prime Minister to "immediately" open an investigation into the causes of the incidents that occurred in recent days and which have impacted the lives of citizens and the national economy, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

"President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, ordered on Sunday the Prime Minister to immediately open an investigation into the causes of the incidents that have taken place in recent days and that have impacted the lives of citizens and the national economy," the source said.

The investigation aims to "determine the causes of the fires that ravaged vast areas of forests, the lack of liquidity in some banks and post offices, the shutdown of the Fouka desalination plant and the unannounced water and electricity cuts in parts of the capital and other major cities during the two days of Eid al-Adha," the same source added.

#### **President of Republic chairs Monday High Security Council meeting**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, minister of the National Defense Abdelmadjid Tebboune will chair on Monday a meeting of the High Security Council, said Sunday a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

"President of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, minister of National Defense Abdelmadjid Tebboune will chair Monday morning a meeting of the High Security Council," said the communiqué.

#### **Protecting healthcare personnel: President Tebboune signs decree amending, supplementing penal code**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, signed on Sunday the decree amending and supplementing the penal code which had been approved by the Council of Ministers at its last meeting, said the Presidency of the Republic in a communiqué.

"The new provisions provide, among others, for the protection of all medical staff working in both public and private establishments against verbal and physical attacks and the punishment of acts of destruction of movable and immovable property and acts of violation of patients' dignity and deceased persons through social networks," the same source said.

The decision to protect the medical staff was officially taken at the last Council of Ministers, which adopted the draft presented by the Minister of Justice, according to the communiqué.

The President of the Republic has also called, during his last interview with national media, for a toughening of penalties against anyone guilty of attacks on health personnel.

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The decree also provides for a sentence of one to three years for any verbal assault, three to 10 years for any physical abuse, depending on the seriousness of the act, and a life sentence in case the person attacked dies.

With regard to material losses, in addition to a sentence of 2 to 10 years, a financial penalty of about DZD3 million will be imposed, according to the same source.

### **Amy eliminates five terrorists' captures another in July**

*ALGIERS* - The People's National Army (ANP) eliminated five terrorists and captured another and five terrorist supporters last July, the National Defense Ministry announced Sunday in an operational review.

As regards counterterrorism, Army units eliminated five terrorists and arrested another and five terrorist supporters. They also destroyed five terrorist bunkers and 39 homemade bombs," said the same source.

During the same period, the same units seized "two (2) shotguns, one (1) repeating rifle, five (5) Kalashnikovs, four (4) automatic pistols, three (3) magazines, one thousand (1000) cartridges and four (4) homemade bombs."

As for the fight against smuggling, the same source announced the arrest of "374 gold miners and the seizure of 165 jackhammers, 209 generators, 12 metal detectors, 18 pieces of dynamite, 4 meters of detonating fuse and 57 vehicles."

Army units also seized "262.7 quintals of tobacco, 54840 boxes of cigarettes, 78,633 litres of fuel and 4 pairs of binoculars," in addition to "21 bags of rock and raw gold mix, two crushers and two coral fishing machines."

Moreover, they seized "2,048 units of medicine, 39,802 units of drinks, 1,607,640 units of pyrotechnic games and a sum of money worth DZD 2,290,000."

Regarding the fight against drugs and organized crime, "77 traffickers were arrested and 57.29 quintals of cannabis and 314,157 psychotropic tablets seized".

### **Forests: About 8,800 hectares ravaged by fires from 1 June to 1 August**

*ALGIERS* - The General Directorate of Forests recorded 1,216 fire outbreaks from 1 June to 1 August, ravaging a global surface area of more than 8,778 hectares, announced this body Sunday in a communiqué.

"These fires ravaged 2,846 forests, 3,245 hectares of scrub and 2,687 hectares of bushes," said the source, pointing out that it recorded an average of 20 fire outbreaks every day and a surface area of 7.2 hectares/center during this period.

The General Directorate of Forests said that the most affected province by forest fires during the aforementioned period is that of Tizi Ouzou with 1,767.5 hectares and 153 fire centers (including

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414.5 hectares of forests), followed by Bejaia (1,516.5 hectares, 68 fire outbreaks including 479 hectares of forests), Tiaret (852.85 hectares and a total of 32 fire outbreaks , including 258.3 hectares of forests) and finally Setif with 716.5 hectares and 23 fire outbreaks, including 366.5 hectares of forests.

For the period from 1 June to 25 July, a total of 814 fire outbreaks ravaged a surface area of 4,277 hectares, while 328 fire outbreaks that ravaged an area of 3,928 hectares were recorded from 25 to 29 July.

On 26, 27 and 28 July, which were marked by high temperatures, a total of 207 fire outbreaks were recorded in 24 provinces with 3,049 hectares ravaged by fires, including 1,033 hectares of forests, 1399 hectares of scrub and 617 hectares of bushes.

### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **Covid-19: Instructions to speed up contacts for vaccine purchase as soon as it is marketed**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune gave Sunday instructions to the Prime minister to speed up the necessary contacts with the countries where scientific researchers have progressed on the production of Covid-19 vaccine, in order to purchase it as soon as it is marketed, said a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

“President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune gave today instructions to the Prime minister to speed up the necessary contacts with the countries where the scientific researchers have progressed on the production of Covid-19 vaccine, in order to purchase it in the requested quantities as soon as it is marketed,” said the communiqué.

#### **Algeria to be among “first countries” to acquire Covid-19 vaccine**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad affirmed Sunday, in Algiers, that Algeria “will be among the first countries to acquire Covid-19 vaccine.”

In a statement to the press, after a ministerial meeting devoted to the exploration of the market of anti-corona virus vaccines, to which took part several ministers as well as director general of Pasteur Institute, the Prime minister underlined that “this meeting is held, following the instructions given by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in order to speed up the essential contacts with the countries that have made progress in their researches on the production of Covid-19 vaccine. Algeria, as a country and government, will be among the first countries to acquire this vaccine,” pointing out that “all those who will need it will be vaccinated.”

After stressing, during this meeting, that the decision of President of the Republic “is very important and significant,” Djerad said that the government “will undertake a scientific and detailed work in order to organize a methodology able to allow the use of this vaccine as soon as possible, for citizens,” adding that “several countries, laboratories and multinationals are working relentlessly to produce this vaccine.”

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Prime minister underlined “several indicators confirming that a good number of laboratories have reached the third phase, i.e. essays on human beings, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the vaccine and its positive effect on people’s health.”

Stating that thanks to this step, Algeria will face “another challenge” in the fight against Covid-19, Djerad affirmed that “the first challenge was to carry out screening tests and to transport equipment and protection material on aircrafts coming under the People’s National Army. The second challenge was related to the providing of masks while the third was to use chloroquine, thanks to which we have succeeded in protecting the health of patients with corona virus,” expressing the hope to see “the challenge inherent to the vaccine getting positive results.”

### **Covid-19-EU travel restrictions: List of unauthorized countries "has no practical effect" on Algeria**

*ALGIERS* - The fact that Algeria is not included in the updated list of countries whose citizens are not allowed travelling to the European Union (EU) "has no practical effect", the country having already decided to keep its borders closed by strict commitment to the principle of protection of its citizens against imported Covid-19 cases, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said Sunday in a statement.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry is aware of the recent updated list of countries whose citizens are authorized to enter EU territory. The list does not include Algeria," said the same source.

"The Ministry is surprised by this procedure, especially as it has no practical effect, since Algeria has already decided to keep its borders closed and strictly committed to the principle of protecting its citizens from imported Covid-19, which was the cause of the initial spread of the virus in Algeria," said the source.

However, the Ministry recalled that "the colossal means and efforts the State has mobilized are without equal in many countries, where more serious situations are recorded, with cases of contamination far superior to those reported in Algeria.”

"Indeed, the State's efforts have led to positive results in the fight against Covid-19, with nearly forty screening centers nationwide and thousands of PCR tests every day,” said the Ministry.

## **ECONOMIC NEWS**

### **Islamic Finance: BNA obtains certificate of compliance with precepts of Shariah**

*ALGIERS* - The National Islamic Finance Fatwa Authority has approved the granting of a certification of compliance with the precepts of Shariah to the National Bank of Algeria (BNA) to market Islamic finance products, announced Sunday the High Islamic Council in a communiqué.

The National Islamic Finance Fatwa Authority continues to study carefully and thoroughly the files on the agenda of its work, with a view to issuing the certificate of compliance with the

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precepts of the Shariah, for other banking and financial institutions willing to market Islamic finance products.